



City of Cincinnati

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City Manager Moves Forward in Hiring of Police Department Assistant Chiefs

Cincinnati, OH --Today, City Manager Valerie Lemmie announced her decision to fill two Assistant Chief positions in the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD). One position will be a reclassified position consistent with the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and existing language in the FOP contract, and one will be a fifth Assistant Chief position as previously outlined in the department's organizational table.

As a result of the recent resignation of Lt. Col. Richard Biehl, there are currently only two Assistant Chiefs employed in the CPD command staff, rather than the four who had been providing divisional leadership under the Chief.

"It is appropriate and necessary to secure the leadership staff to help address the number of responsibilities the Police Department has including those required by the Collaborative Agreements," said Lemmie. "While we have pursued these matters through administrative and civil channels, we can no longer hinder the Police department's ability to operate most effectively."

Both state collective bargaining law and the FOP supervisors' agreement in place since 1984 allow the City to designate one Assistant Chief position as an unclassified position, provided that the individual is delegated the authority to serve as Police Chief in his (her) absence. All other Assistant Chiefs are subject to the terms of the union contract. The City Manager's decision to exercise this option allows the City to hire that Assistant Chief pursuant to the Issue 5 Charter language passed by the voters in 2001 that states, "The city manager shall appoint the police chief and assistant police chiefs to serve in said unclassified positions." The Charter goes on to say, "The police chief and assistant police chiefs shall be appointed solely on the basis of their executive and administrative qualifications in the field of law enforcement and need not, at the time of appointment be residents of the city or state."

The collective bargaining agreement between the City and the FOP does not address the hiring process for Assistant Police Chiefs, and therefore state civil service law would not be applicable.

The City also will create a fifth Assistant Chief position to be hired under the provisions of Issue 5. The individual hired for that position will be appointed pursuant to the terms of Issue 5, but would thereafter be a member of the FOP and entitled to the rights and terms under the contract, including those for wages, benefits, discipline or discharge.

The Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones will chair the search committee to fill the two vacancies. The committee will oversee the recruiting process and help to evaluate the needs and experiences of both internal and external candidates to complement the goals of the Police Department.

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